O-0902
EXERCISE UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

CONDITIONS

In participating as a member of the CAP mission team, you encounter a patient that needs to be assessed and possibly treated.

OJECTIVES

The student will take adequate action to protect himself from bloodborne pathogens utilizing universal precautions while assessing and possibly treating the patient.

TRAINING AND EVALUATION

Training Outline

1. Universal Precautions is the concept that all blood and certain body fluids are to be treated as if contaminated with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), or other bloodborne pathogens

2. An acceptable alternative to Universal Precautions is Body Substance Isolation (the treating of all fluids and substances as infectious).

3. Materials requiring universal precautions:

    a. Blood

    b. Semen

    c. Vaginal secretions

    d. Cerebrospinal fluid

    e. Synovial fluid

    f. Pleural fluid

    g. Any body fluid with visible blood

    h. Any unidentifiable body fluid

    i. Saliva from dental procedures

4. Materials not requiring universal precautions unless there is visible blood:

    a. Feces

    b. Nasal secretions

    c. Sputum

d. Sweat

e. Tears

f. Urine

g. Vomitus

NOTE: Though not required, it be difficult for team members to determine if blood is present, and they should exercise universal precautions if unsure to be safe.

5. Personal protective equipment like gloves and a mask must be used whenever you might be exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials. Rubber gloves and surgical masks create a basic barrier between the provider and the survivor, and protects both from transmitting potentially harmful diseases. There are some basic rules to follow in exercising Universal Precautions.

a. When conducting a hands-on assessment of a patient, always wear rubber gloves, and if the potential exists for airborne transmission or being splashed with blood or other pathogenic fluids, at least wear a surgical mask and goggles or face shield.

b. Change gloves between patients. This avoids the transmission of pathogens between patients.

c. Use well-fitting, disposable, latex or vinyl gloves for any task involving exposure to blood and other body fluids. Make sure extra pairs are available.

d. Before putting on gloves, make sure they have no holes, cracks or tears.

e. Change gloves if they become torn or dirty.

f. Remove gloves by grasping the cuffs and pulling them off inside out.

g. Use work gloves over latex gloves when working around broken glass or sharp surfaces - for instance when removing a person from an auto wreck or crashed aircraft.

h. Dispose of latex gloves in identifiable medical-waste containers.

i. Wash hands following removal of gloves. Handwashing is the best overall protective measure against most communicable diseases. Wash your hands and other skin surfaces thoroughly with soap and running water immediately after contact with blood or other body fluids. When running water is not available, waterless, hand-wash substitutes should be used until a more thorough handwashing can be accomplished.

Additional Information

More detailed information on this topic is available in Chapter 16 of the Ground Team Member & Leader Reference Text.

Evaluation Preparation

Setup: The evaluator will moulage a patient for the student to assess. The patient should have formal signs of trauma, preferably with "bleeding" wounds. If multiple patients are to be examined in a large group exercise, insure that the provider changes gloves between patients. If only one patient is to be assessed, determine

verbally what the student would do if multiple patients needed to be assessed. More than one student can be assessed at the same time, but a one-to-one ratio of evaluators to students is preferable.

Brief Student: The student will be briefed to perform a basic assessment of the patient utilizing training and equipment required of all ground team members.

Evaluation

Performance measures	Results	
1. The student assesses the scene and determines accurately to wear rubber gloves, and face shield and goggles or other eye protection as necessary?	P	F
2. The student properly demonstrates how to remove rubber gloves without exposing himself to potential pathogenic materials.	P	F
3. The student either demonstrates or verbally explains why changing gloves between patients is necessary.	P	F

Student must receive a pass on all performance measures to qualify in this task. If the individual fails any measure, show what was done wrong and how to do it correctly.